

IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1.- 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for controlling a computer, said computer program product comprising:

(i) scan request receiving logic operable to receive a request to perform an on-access malware scan upon a computer file to which access is to be made;

(ii) scan dividing logic operable to divide said on-access malware scan into a plurality of tasks;

(iii) task issuing logic operable to issue said plurality of tasks to be performed by a plurality of different computers; and

(iv) result collating logic operable to collate a plurality of task results corresponding to said plurality of tasks and received from said plurality of different computers to form a scan result corresponding to said on-access malware scan;

wherein said scan dividing logic divides said on-access malware scan in response to a complexity metric exceeding a predetermined threshold, where the complexity metric is dependent on at least one parameter;

wherein the complexity metric is dependent on a plurality of parameters including a computer file type, a level of nesting of embedded computer files, an initial attempt to scan said computer file which exceeded a predetermined time, and a level of utilization of a local processor.

49. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for controlling a computer, said computer program product comprising:

(i) scan request receiving logic operable to receive a request to perform an on-access malware scan upon a computer file to which access is to be made;

(ii) scan dividing logic operable to divide said on-access malware scan into a plurality of tasks;

(iii) task issuing logic operable to issue said plurality of tasks to be performed by a plurality of different computers; and

(iv) result collating logic operable to collate a plurality of task results corresponding to said plurality of tasks and received from said plurality of different computers to form a scan result corresponding to said on-access malware scan;

wherein said scan dividing logic divides said on-access malware scan in response to a complexity metric exceeding a predetermined threshold, where the complexity metric is dependent on at least one parameter;

wherein an amount said complexity metric exceeds said predetermined threshold determines a number of tasks into which said on-access malware scan is divided.

50.-51.(Cancelled)

52. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said computer file into a plurality of component computer files to be separately scanned as said plurality of tasks.

53. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 52, wherein said computer file contains one or more embedded computer files which are further divided out as component computer files.

54. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 53, wherein said computer file is one of the following computer file types: OLE2, ZIP, CAB, ARJ, RAR, ACE, JAR, ARC, LHA, LZH, ICE and StuffIt.

55. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said on-access malware scan into a plurality of on-access malware scans for identifying different properties of said computer file, said plurality of on-access malware scans being separately performed as said plurality of tasks.

56. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 55, wherein said plurality

of tasks each seek to further identify different portions of one of a cryptographic analysis and an emulation analysis.

57. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein said on-access malware scan of said computer file seeks to identify one or more of:

- (i) a computer virus;
- (ii) a Trojan computer program;
- (iii) a worm computer program;
- (iv) a banned computer program; and
- (v) an e-mail containing banned content.

58. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein one or more of said tasks are further divided into sub-tasks.

59. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said computer file into a plurality of component computer files to be separately scanned as said plurality of tasks.

60. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 59, wherein said computer file contains one or more embedded computer files which are further divided out as component computer files.

61. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 60, wherein said computer file is one of the following computer file types: OLE2, ZIP, CAB, ARJ, RAR, ACE, JAR, ARC, LHA, LZH, ICE and StuffIt.

62. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said on-access malware scan into a plurality of on-access malware scans for identifying different properties of said computer file, said plurality of on-access malware scans being separately performed as said plurality of tasks.

63. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 62, wherein said plurality of tasks each seek to further identify different portions of one of a cryptographic analysis and an emulation analysis.

64. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein said on-access malware scan of said computer file seeks to identify one or more of:

- (i) a computer virus;
- (ii) a Trojan computer program;
- (iii) a worm computer program;
- (iv) a banned computer program; and
- (v) an e-mail containing banned content.

65. (New) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein one or more of said tasks are further divided into sub-tasks.